

Message Text

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66

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EUR-25 MC-02 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /145 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/EP/P:MRRFRECHETTE

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ARA-LA/EP:MSPRINGLE

ARA/PAF:WDIEDRICH (SUBS)

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P 212316Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

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EO11652N/A DECONTROL DEC 31/73

TAGS:PFOR, MASS, PE, US, CI, UR

SUBJECT: PERUVIAN PURCHASE OF SOVIET ARMAMENTS

1. DURING COURSE OF PRESS CONFERENCE ON DEC 19, PERUVIAN PRESIDENT VELASCO CONFIRMED PERU'S PURCHASE OF SOVIET ARMS. EMBASSY LIMA'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF OFFICIAL VERSION OF EXCHANGE FOLLOWS:

2. Q.: MR. PRESIDENT, A NORTH AMERICAN NEWSPAPER HAS PUBLISHED THAT PERU IS BUYING TANKS FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

A. IT IS TRUE. PERU HAS PURCHASED TANKS FROM THE SOVIET UNION BECAUSE IT IS A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY AND AS SUCH CAN BUY THEM IN THE COUNTRY THAT SUITS IT MOST. IF WE NEED TO BUY MATERIAL, WE DO IT. WE ARE NOT GOING TO WAIT WITH OUR HANDS IN OUR POCKETS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TO DO IT. AS FAR AS THE TYPE OF MATERIAL THAT WAS PURCHASED I CANNOT REVEAL IT FOR OBVIOUS NATIONAL SECURITY REASONS.

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3. ON DEC 17 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR REPORTED THE

SOVIET SALE OF 24 MEDIUM TANKS TO PERU. WASHINGTON POST
SUBSEQUENTLY GAVE NON-ALARMIST PLAY TO SALE.

4.POSTS SHOULD REFRAIN FROM COMMENTING ON THIS DEVELOPMENT.
PRESS GUIDANCE FOLLOWS. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, MILITARY SALES, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: MRRFRECHETTE
Enclosure: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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To: ALL POSTS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005